

III. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

7. Please insert the following paragraph before the paragraph starting with the words “In operation, the transmitter 201 acts as a server” at line 26 of page 10 of the specification filed on May 17, 1999:

In addition to the error monitoring known in the art, a novel feature of the present invention is reporting to the user when any of the requested capture, compression, transmission, decompression, and display parameters cannot be met, such that the requested quality is not being achieved. As disclosed in the provisional application, the transmitter incorporates “a means of ...b) compressing a video image using a lossless...compression algorithm, d) sending the compressed frame with timecode information to each receiver...i) displaying video image, time code, performance, and network connection information, j) modifying video settings...such as brightness, contrast, hue, and so forth for the video being captured, k) sending a dropped frame indicator when a frame cannot be sent to a receiver in a time accurate manner due to capture or transmission delays” (Provisional application 60/085,818, pages 2-3); the receivers each incorporate a “means of ... c) receiving video parameter information and a stream of compressed video frames with timecodes..., d) decompressing each video frame... and displaying it in a time accurate manner, ... g) displaying performance, dropped frames, and network connection information, ...k) allowing the user to specify a subset of the video frame area to be transmitted in order to increase image and motion quality” (page 3); and with receiver minimum Internet bandwidths of “1.5 Mb/sec” and “56Kb/sec”, the “physician can at any time record a specific transmitted segment, transfer that segment at a later time, and view the segment

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full frame and full motion..." (page 7). Thus the quality notification includes timestamps (indicating the deadline when the frame of live video must be displayed), dropped frame indicators, performance, and network information. This quality notification informs the user, for example, a physician making a medical decision based on what is being seen, whether or not the current image is actually being displayed at full medical diagnostic quality. This allows the physician to use only the medical quality portions of the transmission in the diagnosis. Further, if network congestion prevents medical quality at the current settings, the physician can change the settings (e.g. compression method, area of image, frame rate, contrast, etc.) until medical quality transmission can be achieved and maintained. If medical quality live transmission cannot be achieved in a given circumstance, e.g. over a 56K bit per second modem connection, the remote physician can still remotely direct the selection of the image (e.g. with a setting of one frame per second) and remotely start and stop the recorder, and then later download the recorded video. The actual diagnosis is then made using the lossless, medical quality recorded video. However, because the remote physician directed the image selection and recording, the recorded video will be known to have the optimal imaging. Also, the patient can receive a faster, optimal report of the study, avoid a repeat study due to an otherwise sub-optimal study, and be scheduled for surgery sooner, if necessary. This notification of the quality of the transmission also has benefits in non-medical applications.